

months without friends, (and yet I can now see the Lord's hand in it all) but we believed that God had directed us here and we knew that he would deliver, for he had said, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass."

About four months later we received official notice to resume the work, which we did, and—(well, really I can not continue my story further just now), but suffice it to say that I am still holding forth the word of life in the same city, altho under different circumstances and spiritual administration, and within five blocks of the hall where I took down that sign in January, 1893, we now have another sign out which I trust has been placed there to stay. To take down that sign was terribly humiliating, but your unworthy servant and missionary continued the warfare on the same battlefield; he is still there, praise the Lord, but were I to believe that the time should ever come that our sign as we now have it should have to come down I would not only wish to go with my hatchet at the midnight hour, but I would wish to take the midnight lightning express so as to get as far away as possible by daylight. But why indulge in imaginations such as these? And those other dear people, surely they ought to be grateful for Brother Lyon's "stickatoitiveness," since thru that they now have a fine church home of their own even if they do have to pay more than twice sixty dollars per month to keep it going. But the end is not by and by. W. M. LYON.

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FOREIGN MISSIONS

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Into the midst of all cordage used by the British navy, a red thread is woven, so that it becomes impossible to cut off a single inch of it anywhere without revealing the sign of English ownership. It is also true of the Bible and missions. From the beginning to the close of the scripture narrative runs the scarlet thread of "World Redemption." The Bible furnishes the highest authority for the universal propagation of the Gospel.

Christianity is the only religion of Redemption. This is its pre eminent characteristic. "It is the approach of Heaven to man, that man may be lifted up to Heaven." This is found in Christ alone; and how shall they have salvation who have not Christ? All heathen faiths are only "colossal systems of meritorious legalism." They have no mediator between fallen man and a holy God, no divine helper in hours of need, and no regenerating spirit to create anew a nature stained with sin. If the Gospel of Christ is not "the answer and the only answer to every religious aspiration and need of man and men," if it is not the "only power of God unto salvation," then St. Paul's sense of indebtedness to Greek and barbarian was a delusion, and his missionary labors nothing less than folly.

But the needs of the whole world are met

in one Savior, Christ the man of Galilee. "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Jesus himself said, "No one cometh unto the Father but by me." How important then that we should spread the news that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life." Christ says to us, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." How can we appropriate the blessings and promises of Christ without accepting the conditions upon which they will be fulfilled? Have we settled the question with the Lord whether His command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is binding upon us? How dare we as individuals, or as a church, disregard this command, or even question its practicability, without implying incompetency on the part of the commander.

The claims of Christianity are *absolute* and *universal*. Its certain conquest of the world is positively affirmed. "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord." Daniel declared that "His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

The question is not so much what will become of the heathen if we do not take the Gospel to them, as what will become of us if we are disobedient to the divine command. Our own salvation is in jeopardy when we cease to labor for the salvation of others. There is no way for the world to learn of Christ except through us. "We are ambassadors for Christ." "Ye shall be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth." God has condescended to make use of the souls whom he has redeemed in spreading the tidings of love. The rose growing in the garden receives its substance not directly from the sun but through the sunbeams; acting as a medium. We are to be channels through which the grace of God may flow to the lost world. Christ came to save the world by winning the world to Himself. He said, "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me." There is no power so great as that of the uplifted Christ. But he must be lifted up and it is for those who know and love Him to show Him to the world.

The cause of not doing may sometimes be lack of knowledge of opportunities for work, but can we offer that as an excuse to the Master? We are responsible for not knowing about the affairs of His kingdom. As He said in Samaria, He is now saying, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields." To each of His disciples Christ is saying today: "As the Father hath sent me, even so I now send you." Note the zeal and earnestness with which He went about His Father's work, expressed in these words—"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to finish His work." Nothing was so important to Christ as the doing of His Father's will; nothing so satisfying. Should

not the same spirit characterize our lives? The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. Let us live more with Him, receive more of His spirit, and we will be impelled by the constraining power of His love to greater activity and earnestness in the world's regeneration.

Again, the church needs the work of evangelizing the world or God would not have left it for her to do. Foreign missions have a reflex influence on the work of the church at home. They have greatly enriched its spiritual life. It deepens as it broadens. They have certainly intensified and fostered the spirit of prayer. Dr. Duff, of Scotland, said: "The church that ceases to evangelize will soon cease to be evangelical." "The church lives as it imparts life." The great Chillingworth spoke truly when he said, "Christianity is a great commodity; the more you export, the more you have for home consumption." It is a law of spiritual life that "he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Missions have demonstrated the great principle of Christ's kingdom, that we get from the Lord as we give to the Lord. "There is that scattereth, and increaseth yet more; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth only to poverty." This is not a premium upon a low commercial aspect of the Gospel, no assurance that a penny invested will return a pound, but the gain comes in richer increased spiritual life. History bears this testimony; the missions of the Sandwich Islands is said to have cost 5,000,000 of dollars, while the trade with that country amounted to \$16,000,000 in six years. The great gain is enlarged power at home.

Of missions as a safeguard, Dr. Daniel March says: "The only effectual safeguard against deadness and indifference, against worldliness and materialism, against vain speculation and false doctrine, against positive unbelief and renunciation of all faith, is to be found in keeping the divine commission, to disciple the nations, ever before the church and world. Give that its due place in all doctrine, in all preaching, and praise, and prayer, in all plans and organizations of the young, in all collections for the treasury of the Lord, and then there will be little danger of letting down the Christian standard of living and consecration, little danger that many will cease to hold fast the form of sound words, or drift away from the firm anchorage of faith."

Missions have given the church a broader conception of the great plan of redemption. It is thru them that we have learned the deeper meaning of the oft quoted words, "Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." "Missions have made the world known. They have colored the maps of geographies, have traced the lines of nations and empires, have revealed the racial and tribal peculiarities of unknown peoples, and really furnished most of the materials upon which philosophy speculated and commerce plans her gigantic